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February 24, 2016

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
333 South Beaudry Street, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017-5156

**Re: Air Testing Results for Germain Street Elementary School in Chatsworth,
California**

Waterstone Environmental, Inc. (Waterstone) is pleased to submit this letter report detailing the results of recent air testing and sample collection at the Germain Street Elementary School located at 20730 Germain Street, Chatsworth, California.

Waterstone has collected air samples and conducted real time air monitoring using various handheld monitors. This report summarizes the results of air sample analysis for samples collected on February 18, 2016.

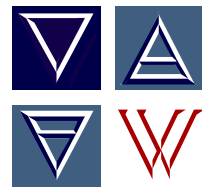
Sample Collection and Analysis

Sample collection consisted of both grab samples (approximately 2 minute sample filling period) in tedlar bags as well as three (3) 8-hour samples collected in summa canisters in the main office, library, and Room #15. The summa canisters were placed in the breathing zone and allowed to sit undisturbed for a period of 8 hours.

One tedlar bag sample and three summa canister samples were delivered to Quantum Analytical Services Inc., a laboratory certified by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Both samples were submitted for analysis of sulfur compounds by SCAQMD Method 307-91, and hydrocarbon speciation by modified EPA 18. The complete laboratory report with analysis results is attached.

One tedlar bag sample and one summa canister sample were delivered to Air Technology Laboratories, Inc., a laboratory accredited by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP). Samples were submitted for analysis of BTEX by EPA Method TO-15. The complete laboratory report with analysis results is attached.

Real time air monitoring was conducted in indoor and outdoor spaces using a Jerome J631X for hydrogen sulfide detection; dräger tubes for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and mercaptans; a multi RAE monitor to measure percent lower explosive limit (%LEL) as an indicator of the potential presence of methane; and an ultra RAE monitor used to measure volatile organic compounds (VOCs) as an indicator of the potential presence of benzene as well as for taking benzene specific reading using a benzene sensor tube.



Analytical Results

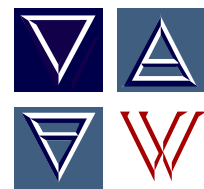
The sample IDs created to refer to Germain Street Elementary School are designated with a “GE” in the sample ID. The analytical results for Germain Street Elementary School presented in the attached laboratory reports are summarized as follows:

- No sulfur compounds were detected at concentrations above laboratory detection limits.
- Methane was detected at a maximum concentration of 2,880 parts per billion by volume (ppbv) in a grab sample and a maximum concentration of 2,910 ppbv in an 8-hour sample. Both of these concentration are below the environmental screening limits for methane of 500,000 ppbv used by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and 1,000,000 ppbv used by the National Institute for Occupational Safety (NIOSH). Additionally, methane was not detected at a concentration that requires a fire contingency plan (8,800,000 ppbv) as required by the Los Angeles County Building Code. Methane was not detected above 3,000 ppbv which is the South Coast Air Quality Management District/California Air Resources Board (SCAQMD/CARB) criterion for 12-hour or 24-hour averages. This methane criterion was set primarily to make sure that the SS-25 well has not resumed leaking and is not a level related to an adverse health affect.
- The maximum concentration of benzene detected in a grab sample was 0.66 ppbv, which is below the environmental screening limits for benzene of 8 ppbv used by OEHHA for a 1-hour acute exposure and below the SCAQMD/CARB criteria of 2 ppbv for a grab sample or an hourly average. Benzene was not detected in the 8-hour sample above the laboratory detection limit of 0.20 ppbv which is below the 8-hour and chronic REL of 0.9 ppbv and the SCAQMD/CARB criteria of 1 ppbv for a 12 to 24-hour average.
- The maximum concentration of toluene detected was 7.4 ppbv and below the environmental screening limits for toluene of 9,640 ppbv used by OEHHA for a 1-hour acute exposure.
- The maximum concentration of ethylbenzene detected was 0.41 ppbv which is below the environmental screening limit for ethylbenzene of 450 ppbv used by OEHHA for a chronic (lifetime) exposure.
- The maximum concentration of xylene (sum of p-xylene, m-xylene and o-xylene) detected was 2.5 ppbv and below the environmental screening limits for xylene of 4,970 ppbv used by OEHHA for a 1-hour acute exposure.



Analyte	Maximum On-site Detection (ppbv)	Environmental Guidance Level (ppbv)	Environmental Guidance Levels Description
Sulfide Compounds	None (grab or 8-hour)	30 (Hydrogen Sulfide) 7 (Hydrogen Sulfide) 10 (Hydrogen Sulfide)	California Ambient Air – 1 hour and OEHHA Acute REL (42 ug/m ³)* OEHHA Chronic REL (10 ug/m ³)* SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (grab, hourly average, and 12 or 24-hour average)
Mercaptans	None (grab or 8-hour)	5	SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (grab, hourly average, and 12 or 24-hour average)
Methane	2,880 (grab) 2,910 (8-hour)	500,000 1,000,000 5,000 4,000 3,000	DTSC Site-Specific Screening Level (for ambient indoor and outdoor air). http://www.hawaiiidoh.org/references/CalEPA%202005b.pdf NIOSH maximum recommended safe methane concentration for workers during an 8-hour period. http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0291.html SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (grab) SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (hourly average) SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (12 or 24-hour average)
Ethane, Ethylene	None (grab or 8-hour)	1,000,000 2,000,000	NIOSH maximum recommended safe ethane concentration for workers during an 8-hour period. http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0266.html NIOSH maximum recommended safe ethylene concentration for workers during an 8-hour period. http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0475.html
Other Hydrocarbon Speciations by EPA 18	None (grab or 8-hour)	1,950 (Hexane)	OEHHA Chronic REL (7,000 ug/m ³)*
Benzene	0.66 (grab) None (8-hour)	8 0.92 2 1	OEHHA Acute REL (27 ug/m ³)* 8-hour and chronic OEHHA RELs (3 ug/m ³)* SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (grab and hourly average) SCAQMD/CARB Criteria (12 or 24-hour average)
Toluene	7.4 (grab) 1.5 (8-hour)	9,640 80	OEHHA Acute REL (37,000 ug/m ³)* OEHHA Chronic REL (300 ug/m ³)*
Ethylbenzene	0.41 (grab) None (8-hour)	450	OEHHA Chronic REL (2,000 ug/m ³)*
Xylenes	2.5 (grab) None (8-hour)	4,970 160	OEHHA Acute REL (22,000 ug/m ³)* OEHHA Chronic REL (700 ug/m ³)*

* OEHHA RELs listed in micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) have been converted to ppbv using the molecular weight of each specific chemical. <http://oehha.ca.gov/air/allrels.html>



Real Time Monitoring Results

The real time monitoring logs are attached. In-field air monitoring results are summarized as follows:

- Methane (as indicated by %LEL), VOCs, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes were not detected during field monitoring.
- Hydrogen sulfide was detected at a maximum concentration of 0.002 ppmv, well below the OEHHA acute REL of 0.03 ppmv.

The majority of the regulatory limits we are comparing against are Reference Exposure Levels (RELs) developed and published by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazards (OEHHA). OEHHA is one of six agencies under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). OEHHA's overall mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by scientific evaluation of risks posed by hazardous substances.

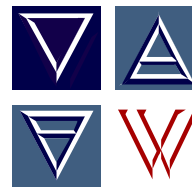
OEHHA evaluates health effects of chemicals found in indoor air, including developing Reference Exposure Levels for use with indoor air exposure scenarios. OEHHA participates in a number of inter-Agency activities designed to evaluate indoor air quality health issues and to move California toward safer indoor air quality. OEHHA provides health-related assistance to health officers.

Conclusions and Recommendations

As shown in the table above, the maximum on-site detections for samples collected on February 18, 2016 are well below the published environmental regulatory limits based on the exposure time specified in the regulatory limit.

Air sampling was conducted at Germain Street Elementary School on January 21, 2016; January 22, 2016; February 1, 2016; February 2, 2016; February 9, 2016; February 10, 2016, February 17, 2016 and February 18, 2016. During the sampling, a total of 35 samples were collected and all chemicals analyzed were found to be well below the published environmental regulatory limits based on the exposure time specified in the regulatory limit with the exception of the following:

- A benzene concentration of 1.0 ppbv was detected in a grab sample collected in the library on January 21, 2016. Although this concentration was found to be slightly elevated it is below the SCAQMD/CARB criteria of 2 ppbv for a grab sample or an hourly average (published on February 18, 2016).
- A benzene concentration of 1.2 ppbv was detected in a 8-hour sample collected in the library on February 2, 2016. This concentration was found to be slightly above the 8-hour and chronic REL of 0.92 ppbv.



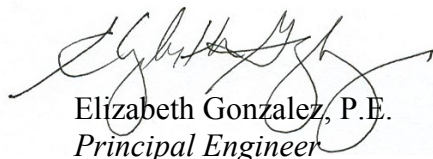
- A benzene concentration of 0.98 ppbv was detected in a 8-hour sample collected in Room #15 on February 10, 2016. This concentration was found to be slightly above the 8-hour and chronic REL of 0.92 ppbv.

Because the chronic REL is designed to address continuous exposures for up to a lifetime (<http://oehha.ca.gov/air/allrels.html>) it is not a limit that a one-time detection should be compared to, however, in an abundance of caution, additional sampling and a thorough on-site inquiry and investigation were conducted to verify that the slightly elevated detections of benzene were not a persistent or school wide issue.

The campus wide investigation consisted of a Waterstone professional conducting a day long survey of the entire school campus. This investigation sought to identify potential indoor and outdoor sources of air contaminants which may have been attributed to consumer products or the schools building heating and cooling systems. During the investigation, a total of 11 grab samples were collected and submitted for analysis. Additionally, Waterstone interviewed the plant manager, Jose Rodriguez, regarding potential on campus air contaminant sources. According to Mr. Rodriguez, there has been no re-paving or asphaltting in the last two to three years, no suspect chemicals were identified at the school, no smoking is allowed on campus, and there has been no re-painting of the school's interior or exterior in the last two to three years. Each building has its own HVAC unit although they have common halls. No potential on campus sources of air contaminants were identified as a result of this investigation.

Of the 35 samples collected on the school campus, nine samples were collected in the library and eight were collected in Room #15. This data shows that the slightly elevated benzene concentrations detected on two of nine occasions in the library and one of eight occasions in Room #15 are not persistent nor school wide, as sampling has also been conducted at several other locations throughout the school. The result of this on campus investigation and the numerous rounds of air sample collection and analysis, it is concluded that the slightly elevated benzene detections were limited occurrences and are not indicative of a persistent issue that requires mitigation measures (air purifiers) and do not warrant any further action.


Sincerely,


Elizabeth Gonzalez, P.E.
Principal Engineer

Waterstone Environmental, Inc.

Attachments




Grace Rinck, CIH
Principal Industrial Hygienist
Aurora Industrial Hygiene